conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation, the unemployment situation both for all India as well as for the State of Gujarat reveals down-ward trend during the period 1987-88 to 1993-94. The unemployment rate which was of the order of 3.77% in 1987-88 has come down to 2.56% in 1993-94 for the country as a whole. Similarly for Gujarat State, the unemployment rate has come dov.n from 2.57% to 1.89% during the period under reference.

(c) There is need to enhance employment opportunities for the poor. In this context, the 9th Plan will seek to implement a national Employment Assurance Scheme.

The approach to the 9th Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adquate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concerned sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour inter regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and unemployment.

Inflow of Tourists

2014. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Tourists Inflow on the decline" appearing in the "Assam Tribune" dated February 17, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government's ambitious plan to increase the flow of tourists to Assam through tea tourism is bound to peter out as no one will consider it wise to visit the State tea gardens which have remained soft targets for various insurgent outfits;

(d) if so, whether any action plan has been chalked out to ease out the situation; and

(e) if so, the details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) It is reported in the news item that the recent spate of violence in the State of Assam has resulted in decline in tourist inflow to the State.

(d) and (e) The State Government has indicated that security measures have been taken to improve the law and order situation in the State and to attract more tourists by holding tea tourism festival.

Allocation for Lilabari Airport

2015. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for the upgradation of Lilabari Airport;

(b) the agency entrusted with the task to implement the project;

(c) the present status of the work relating to construction of runway and terminal building; and

(d) the reasons for delay in the progress of work?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) Lilabari Airport has been identified for upgradation during the ninth plan period for domestic operations. Construction of a new terminal building at an estimated cost of Rs.14.50 crores is likely to be completed by July, 1999 and strengthening and extension of runway upto 7500 ft. at a cost of Rs.13.90 crores is likely to be completed by September, 1998.

Development of Sabarmati Railway Station

2016. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of overcrowding at Ahmedabad Railway Station and limited scope for its expansion due to paucity of space;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the situation;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal for development of nearby Sabarmati Railway Station to ease the overcrowding at Ahmedabad Railway Station; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

ITI-Palghat Unit

2017. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the acute crisis being faced by the Palghat Unit of Indian Telephone Industries; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to save this unit?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) as a whole including its Palghat Unit is facing problems of under utilisation of capacities, reduction in prices of Telecom. Equipment and paucity of financial resources.

The following major steps have been taken to help the Company:

(i) 20 to 30% of the DOT Orders are kept reserved for ITI. The Company can also secure more orders by way of participation in the Tenders floated by the DOT.

(ii) The advance payment against Purchase Orders has